

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed September 1, 2005. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-18 and 58-107 were pending in this Application. Claims 19-57 were previously cancelled due to an election/restriction requirement. Claims 66-107 were withdrawn by the Examiner due to an additional election/restriction. Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-18, and 58-65 were rejected. Claims 7 and 16 were objected to. Independent Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to further define various features of Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 6, 8-11, 15, 17-18, and 58-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,735,218 issued to Kondo Akiko et al. ("Akiko et al.") in view of U.S. Patent 6,406,850 issued to Herman Volkers et al. ("Volkers et al."). Claims 1-2, 6, 8-12, 15, 17-18, and 58-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication Number 07-241570 filed by Nishi Norio et al. ("Norio et al.") in view of Volkers et al. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13-15, 17-18, and 58-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over French Patent Publication No. 2 800 299 filed by Tharaud Cecile et al. ("Cecile et al.") in view of Volkers et al. Applicant traverses the rejections. However, in order to move the Application forward, Applicant amends Independent Claims 1 and 10.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to Claims 7 and 16 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 7 depends from Claim 1 and Claim 16 depends from Claim 10. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 7. Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 16. Consequently, Applicant

submits Claims 1 and 10, and their dependents, are now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on March 16, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests that the Information Disclosure Statements be considered and cited in the examination of the above-referenced application. Applicant attaches a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 filed March 16, 2005 for the Examiner's convenience and a copy of the postcard receipt evidencing receipt by the Patent Office.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Claims as amended.

Applicant believes no fees are due at this time, however the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any payment necessary to effectuate this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-2148.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2606.

Respectfully submitted,
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